

Attorney Docket No. 81855.0008

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 5-25 were pending for examination in the last Office Action. Claims 1 and 22 are amended in this paper, and claims 1, 2, and 5-25 remain pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of these claims are now respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 22 are the two independent claims currently in the application.

Claim 1, as amended, requires:

inputting defect information for each one or more component into the memory at an inspecting station apart from any of the production stations, wherein each inspecting station is assigned an inspecting station identifier, so that the defect information and the unit control identifier are linked to the inspecting station where the defect information is input and wherein the defect information includes at least one defect phenomenon.

This element, and in particular the assignment and tracking of a unique inspecting station identifier, is not described in the art so far cited against the application. Thiel and Goss each describe inspections conducted at inspecting stations, but those references do not describe that the inspecting stations are uniquely identified and that their identities are tracked further through the manufacturing process. Claim 1 is thus believed patentable over the art cited against it. The allowance of claim 1 is thus respectfully requested, along with claims 2, and 5-21, each of which depends from it.

Claim 22, as amended, requires:

inspecting each component at an inspection station apart from any of the production stations before the assembled units are assembled as said machine; [and]

inputting defect information into said memory at each inspecting station such that said inputted defect information

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includes at least one defect phenomenon and information
identifying the inspection station.


These elements, and in particular the assignment and storage into memory of information uniquely identifying an individual inspection station, is not disclosed in the prior art, as noted above in connection with claim 1. Claim 22 is thus believed patentable, as are claims 23-25, which depend from it.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, and 5-25 and the application as a whole are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are thus respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6711 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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